

**A PRODUCT CATALOG FOR USE IN A
COLLABORATIVE ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT
AND METHOD FOR USING SAME**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A collaborative engineering environment (CEE) enables the
effective capture, management, communication, and exploitation of all
product related information to a project team. The systematic employment
of this information offers substantial improvements in productivity, cost
savings, cycle time reductions, product integrity, and lifetime
10 supportability of the system. Advanced CEE capabilities exploit and
leverage the engineering, architectural and technological expertise of
enterprise subject matter experts (domain experts) across multiple complex
systems development and integration activities. The CEE provides a
tightly coupled process automation using reusable product elements for
15 coupling information with engineering processes and ensuring adherence
to repeatable and traceable engineering processes. A product catalog
provides a single information management point for intrinsic complex
product characteristics and facilitates the propagation of that information
to engineering teams incorporating the complex product into their system
20 designs. The intrinsic complex product characteristics are augmented with
implementation specific information to fully describe the complex product
in the system design.